

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: AL AHALI ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: LEFTIST WEEKLY SPECULATES ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PREDICTING CENTER PARTY WILL BECOME SADAT'S, LEFT WILL BE DISSOLVED, WHILE NEW PARTIES ARE FORMED. QUESTION OF WHOM OWNS PRESS NOW THAT ASU DISSOLVED RAISED, AS IS SADAT'S POSITION AS HEAD OF PARTY AND POLITICAL REFEREE. END SUMMARY.

1. CENTER PARTY. JULY 26 AL AHALI PREDICTED SALEM'S CENTER PARTY WILL CONVERT ITSELF INTO SADAT'S NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. PARTY HAD BEEN EXPECTED ANNOUNCE MASS CONVERSION BUT PAPERS WERE ORDERED NOT TO PRINT THIS. IMPLICATION, SAID AL AHALI, IS THAT NEW PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP WILL BE SCREENED. PAPER CLAIMED FOUNDING MEMBERS OF NEW PARTY WILL INCLUDE FORMER PM HEGAZI, ASU SEC GEN MUSTAFA KHALIL, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI, MISR PARTY SEC GEN FUAD MOHIE EL DIN AND LEADING JOURNALISTS MOUSA SABRI, ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL AND ANIS MANSOUR.

2. PRESS. AL AHALI NOTED GOVERNMENT NEEDS RESOLVE
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QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP MASS CIRCULATION DAILIES NOW THAT ASU TO DISSOLVE. LEGALLY, ASU OWNS ALL THREE PAPERS. UNDER PRESS LAW, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED SHORTLY, ASU WAS TO GAIN CONTROL OVER PARTY ORGANS AS WELL.

3. PARTIES. LEFTIST WEEKLY REPEATED ALLEGATION THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK ITS DISSOLUTION, REPLACING IT

WITH "TAME LEFT." ADDITIONAL PARTIES LIKELY EMERGE.
PAPER MOOTED POSSIBILITY MUMTAZ NASSER, MAHMOUD EL
QADI AND/OR HELMI MURAD WILL BE LEADER(S). CABINET,
IT SUGGESTED, WILL BE THOROUGHLY RESHUFFLED FOLLOWING
RESUMPTION OF PARLIAMENT IN FALL.

4. PRESIDENT. MAIN EDITORIAL DISCUSSED DIFFICULTIES
CONFRONTING SADAT AS HEAD OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. UNDER
CONSTITUTION, HE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING BALANCE
AMONG POLITICAL GROUPS BUT WILL NOW LEAD ONE OF GROUPS
COMPETING FOR POWER. POSITION NOT IMPOSSIBLE, PAPER
CONCLUDED, BUT REQUIRES "GUARANTEE OF EQUALITY" FOR ALL
PARTIES.

5. CORRUPTION. AL AHALI CONTAINED NO AD HOMINEM ATTACKS
ON LEADING EGYPTIANS. EGYPTIAN READERS, HOWEVER, WILL
LIKELY VIEW DISCUSSION OF ITALIAN PRESIDENT'S FALL FROM
POWER AS HAVING SOME LOCAL RELEVANCE. ACCORDING AL AHALI,
HE LEFT OFFICE AS RESULT SCANDAL CONCERNING "NUMBER OF
PALACES" HE WAS BUILDING AROUND ITALY, WITH FUNDS FOR
WHICH HE WAS UNABLE ACCOUNT. EILTS

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